



*KANSAS Outdoor
Recreation Plan*

2009-

Cover
Fall River Lake
Courtesy Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks

January 13, 2009

Dear Readers,

Kansans have a proud tradition of enjoying the great outdoors. Our state parks, trails and the facilities and programs offered by local communities give Kansans the opportunity to enjoy the life-long benefits of outdoor activity.

Parks and outdoor recreation are essential to Kansans – especially during uncertain economic times. State Parks have seen an increase in visitation in recent years. As Kansas families search for more affordable entertainment options, they will find that outdoor recreation is an ideal way to exercise and enjoy memorable experiences with family and friends.

Our state's natural environment contributes to the quality of life here in Kansas. The statewide comprehensive plan for outdoor recreation outlines a vision to make outdoor recreation experiences even more readily available throughout our state and seeks to address the key issues impeding that vision. I am pleased to certify it as the State's Outdoor Recreation Plan for 2009-2014.

Together, we have accomplished much through collaborative efforts like the Kansas Health Summit. New alliances are working to preserve our natural landscapes and heritage, including the Tallgrass Prairie and our Flint Hills. Programs like Outdoor Kansas for Kids are aimed at giving Kansas kids the opportunity to incorporate nature and wildlife into their lives at a young age.

Ensuring these kinds of opportunities will promote the health, fitness and environmental awareness of Kansans of all ages. With local communities working together with state agencies and forming strategic partnerships with the private sector, Kansans will be able to enjoy the benefits of outdoor recreation in communities across our state for years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Sebelius". The signature is written in a cursive style.

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS
Governor of the State of Kansas

Dear Readers,

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks is once again proud to play a leadership role in the supply of quality outdoor recreation experiences for Kansans, and in the development of this statewide plan for outdoor recreation.

Over the last 5 years of the current plan we have achieved much. The Kansas River corridor is now much more accessible with the addition of several boat ramps and an Arkansas River Corridor Plan has been drafted that would provide similar access additions to that important navigable river. A new state park has been added, Kaw River State Park in Topeka. State Park funding has been challenging but we thank the Governor and the Legislature for their recent efforts in keeping state parks open and affordable for all.

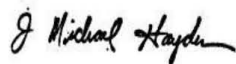
The Land and Water Conservation Fund has again helped fund diverse and significant outdoor recreation projects in the state. Examples include skate parks in Wichita and Derby, a new visitor's center in Meade State Park, and a new swimming pool in Rossville.

Substantial collaborative efforts deserve recognition. Outdoor recreation activity enhances physical and mental health and two statewide summits in 07 and 08 brought diverse interests together to discuss ways to enhance participation further. Help was forthcoming too from organizations like Kansas Wildscape that funded the highly successful cabins in parks venture and the OK Kids programs to get children more involved in outdoor activity.

Affordable recreation opportunities are particularly important during economic downturns and to that end, we will endeavor to provide a sustainable level of service. Parks at all levels of government may be somewhat less groomed that you are used to but they will be available. It has been historically proven that investment in public recreation infrastructure has long lasting benefits and deserves inclusion in an economic stimulus program.

We are optimistic that the "Recreation Roundtable" called for in this plan will become a reality, and that it will serve as both a sounding block for new programs and as a partner in advocacy. To that end we all need to work to ensure that the full spectrum of benefits derived from outdoor experiences is well communicated.

Sincerely,



J. Michael Hayden
Secretary Wildlife and Parks

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